

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of activating a plurality of gift cards at a POS device, said
2 method comprising:
3 providing a first card number corresponding to a first card in a series of cards;
4 providing a total number of n cards to be activated;
5 activating the card corresponding to said first card number;
6 activating the next successive n-1 cards corresponding to the next successive
7 n-1 card numbers.

1 2. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:
2 providing a last card number corresponding to a last card in said series of
3 cards.

1 3. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:
2 sending an activation request from a POS device to an activation computer,
3 wherein said activation request comprises said first card number and said total number of n
4 cards to be activated.

1 4. The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:
2 sending a response to said activation request from said activation computer to
3 said POS device, wherein said response comprises an indicator indicative of whether said
4 series of cards have been approved for activation.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:
2 sending a void request from said POS device so as to void activation of said
3 series of cards.

1 6. A method of activating a plurality of gift cards at a POS device, said
2 method comprising:
3 receiving a plurality of cards at a POS device;
4 entering a first indicator indicative of a first card in said plurality of cards;
5 entering a total number of cards in said plurality of cards;
6 communicating said first indicator and said total number of cards to an
7 activation computer;

8 receiving confirmation that said plurality of cards have been approved for
9 activation.

1 7. The method as described in claim 6 wherein said receiving
2 confirmation comprises:
3 receiving a batch number.

1 8. The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:
2 utilizing said batch number to void said activation of said plurality of cards.

1 9. The method as described in claim 6 and further comprising:
2 entering a second indicator indicative of a last card in said plurality of cards.

1 10. The method as described in claim 9 and further comprising:
2 calculating a total number of cards with said first indicator and said second
3 indicator so as to confirm said entered number of cards was correct.

1 11. A method of validating activation of a plurality of gift cards, said
2 method comprising:
3 receiving from a POS device an indicator indicative of a first card in a
4 plurality of cards;
5 receiving an indicator indicative of a total number of cards in said plurality of
6 cards;
7 determining whether said plurality of cards can be activated;
8 communicating a validation signal so as to indicate at said POS device
9 whether said plurality of cards can be activated.

1 12. The method as described in claim 11 and further comprising:
2 initiating a batch process to activate each of said plurality of cards.

1 13. The method as described in claim 11 wherein said validating that said
2 plurality of cards can be activated comprises:
3 determining for said first card a card type and an activation amount;
4 determining for each remaining card in said plurality of cards whether each
5 remaining card is of the same card type and the same activation amount.

1 14. The method as described in claim 13 wherein said communicating a
2 signal so as to indicate at said POS device whether said plurality of cards can be activated
3 comprises:

4 communicating a negative signal indicating that said plurality of cards cannot
5 be activated if all of said plurality of cards do not match said activation amount and said card
6 type.

1 15. The method as described in claim 13 wherein said communicating a
2 signal so as to indicate at said POS device whether said plurality of cards can be activated
3 comprises:

4 communicating a positive signal indicating that said plurality of cards can be
5 activated if all of said plurality of cards do match said activation amount and said card type.

1 16. A method of activating a plurality of gift cards with a POS device, said
2 method comprising:

3 receiving from a purchaser a plurality of cards for purchase;

4 entering a first card number into said POS device;

5 entering a total number of cards making up said plurality of cards into said
6 POS device;

7 receiving payment for said plurality of cards at said POS device from said
8 purchaser;

9 communicating said first card number to a card activation computer;

10 communicating said total number of cards making up said plurality of cards to
11 said card activation computer;

12 activating the card corresponding to said first card number;

13 activating the next n-1 successive cards corresponding to the next n-1 card
14 numbers after the first card.

1 17. The method as described in claim 16 and further comprising:
2 validating that said plurality of cards can be activated.

1 18. The method as described in claim 17 wherein said validating that said
2 plurality of cards can be activated comprises:

3 determining for said first card a card type and an activation amount;

4 determining for each remaining card in said plurality of cards whether each
5 remaining card is of the same card type and the same activation amount.

1 19. The method as described in claim 18 and further comprising:
2 communicating a negative signal to said POS device indicating that said
3 plurality of cards cannot be activated if all of said plurality of cards do not match said
4 activation amount and said card type.

1 20. The method as described in claim 18 and further comprising:
2 communicating a positive signal indicating that said plurality of cards can be
3 activated if all of said plurality of cards do match said activation amount and said card type.

1 21. A method of selling gift cards, said method comprising:
2 providing a plurality of cards having sequential card numbers;
3 packaging said plurality of cards in a common package;
4 configuring at least one card number for detection by a bar code scanner;
5 labeling said package with a total number of cards in said package;

1 22. A method of packaging gift cards, said method comprising:
2 providing as a package a plurality of cards, each of said cards having a
3 different respective card number and wherein said card numbers form a sequential order;
4 providing a package identifier on said package;
5 wherein said package identifier comprises:
6 an indicator indicating one of said plurality of cards; and
7 an indicator indicating a total number of cards in said package for activation.